

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Special Night Duty Officers

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Central Offices of the Deutsche Handelszentrale (DHZ), like other East Berlin and East German Government installations, has recently instituted special night Duty Officer shifts. Night Duty Officers are selected from among the "reliable" SED members of the installation's personnel. They are to stay within the building, are allowed to sleep but should be at all times near a specially designated "watch telephone". Confidential (vertraulich) instructions issued to them are not specific but merely state that in any type of serious trouble or emergency, a sealed envelope - deposited near the telephone - should be opened and the written instructions contained therein followed.
2. The generally understood implication is that the authorities are thinking in terms of a political emergency of the 17 June 1953 variety, rather than a fire or forceful entry into the building, as the normal installation protection guards continue on duty and have their normal separate orders. not changed recently, on what to do in case of fire or other damage.
3. In addition to the night Duty Officers, a similar arrangement was also initiated for weekends.
4. No firearms were issued to the watch officers.
5. These special night duty shifts were instituted in the second or third week of May 1954. They are to remain in effect until further notice.

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